

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the subject application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of determining a pathway between a source connection point and a target connection point comprising:

- providing a computer system having at least one database comprising data defining individuals, businesses ~~entities~~, or both as connection points;
- providing a user interface configured to allow entry by a user of a list of source contacts, comprising one or more individuals, one or more businesses, or both, and a list of target contacts, comprising at least one individual or business;
- defining the source connection point as ~~[[a]]~~the list of source contacts comprising individuals, businesses ~~entities~~, or both, entered by the user in the user interface;
- defining the target connection point, ~~wherein the target connection point is as the~~list of target contacts, comprising at least one individual, business ~~entity~~, or both, entered by the user in the user interface; and
- defining, in response to the entry by the user, in the user interface, of the list of source contacts and the list of target contacts, a set of intermediate connection points as a series of intermediate contacts that collectively define the pathway from the source connection point to the target connection point, as a function of predetermined relationships among a superset of contacts comprising the intermediate contacts.

2. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1 further comprising: providing at least one host database comprising identification data for each of a plurality of individuals and businesses~~es~~entities, wherein for each individual or business~~entity~~ said identification data includes relationships to at least one other individual or business~~entity~~; defining a starting point as a list of at least one individual or business~~entity~~; defining an endpoint as a list of at least one individual or business~~entity~~; and generating at least one pathway that identifies a set of intermediate individuals, businesses~~es~~entities or both, wherein the identity of each intermediate individual or business~~entity~~ includes:

a first set of identification data in common with a set of identification data of an individual or business~~entity~~ from the starting point or of a prior intermediate individual or business~~entity~~; and

a second set of identification data in common with a set of identification data of a subsequent intermediate individual or business~~entity~~ or of an individual or business~~entity~~ from the endpoint.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 wherein at least one of the starting point and the endpoint is a list comprising a plurality of individuals, businesses~~es~~entities or both.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the identification data comprises an identification of the individual or business~~entity~~.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 wherein providing at least one host database comprises deriving information from at least one private or public domain source including data representing individuals, businesses~~entities~~ or both.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6 wherein deriving information comprises parsing information from at least one private or public domain source.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6 wherein the at least one private or public domain source includes web sites, publications and databases.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising, prior to generating, defining a maximum number of intermediate individuals, businesses~~entities~~ or both to comprise the at least one pathway.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising: for the at least one pathway, displaying the starting point, the one or more intermediate individuals, businesses~~entities~~ or both and the at least one endpoint.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium having stored thereon instructions for determining at least one pathway between a source connection point and a target connection point, said instructions when executed by a computer causes a processor to perform operations comprising:

providing a user interface configured to allow entry by a user of a list of source contacts, comprising one or more individuals, businesses, or both, and a list of target contacts, comprising at least one individual or business;

defining the source connection point as [[a]]the list of source contacts comprising individuals, businesses~~entities~~, or both, entered by the user in the user interface;

defining the target connection point, ~~wherein the target connection point is as the~~ list of target contacts, comprising at least one individual, business~~entity~~, or both, entered by the user in the user interface; and

defining, in response to the entry by the user, in the user interface, of the list of source contacts and the list of target contacts, a set of intermediate connection points as a series of intermediate contacts that collectively define the pathway from the source connection point to the target connection point, as a function of predetermined relationships among a superset of contacts comprising the intermediate contacts.

12. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 11 further comprising:

accessing at least one host database comprising identification data for each of a plurality of individuals and businesses~~entities~~, wherein for each individual or entity said identification data includes relationships to at least one other individual or business~~entity~~;

defining a starting point as a list of at least one individual or business-~~entity~~; defining an endpoint as a list of at least one individual or business-~~entity~~; and

generating at least one pathway that identifies a set of intermediate individuals, businesses-~~entities~~ or both, wherein the identity of each intermediate individual or business-~~entity~~ includes:

a first set of identification data in common with a set of identification data of an individual or business-~~entity~~ from the starting point or of a prior intermediate individual or business-~~entity~~; and

a second set of identification data in common with a set of identification data of a subsequent intermediate individual or business-~~entity~~ or of an individual or business-~~entity~~ from the endpoint.

13. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 11 further comprising:

providing at least one host database comprising identification data for each of a plurality of individuals and businesses-~~entities~~, wherein for each individual or business-~~entity~~ said identification data includes relationships to at least one other individual or business-~~entity~~;

defining a starting point as a list of at least one individual or business-~~entity~~;

defining an endpoint as a list of at least one individual or business-~~entity~~; and generating at least one pathway that identifies a set of intermediate individuals, businesses-entities or both, wherein the identity of each intermediate individual or business-~~entity~~ includes:

a first set of identification data in common with a set of identification data of an individual or business-~~entity~~ from the starting point or of a prior intermediate individual or business-~~entity~~; and

a second set of identification data in common with a set of identification data of a subsequent intermediate individual or entity or of an individual or business-~~entity~~ from the endpoint.

14. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13 wherein at least one of the starting point and the endpoint is a list comprising a plurality of individuals, businesses-~~entities~~ or both.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13 wherein the identification data comprises an identification of the individual or business-~~entity~~.

17. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13 wherein providing at least one host database comprises deriving information from at least one private or public domain source including data representing individuals, businesses-~~entities~~ or both.

18. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 17 wherein deriving information comprises parsing information from at least one private or public domain source.

19. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 17 wherein the at least one private or public domain source includes web sites, publications and databases.

20. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of claim 13, further comprising, prior to generating, defining a maximum number of intermediate individuals, businesses ~~entities~~ or both to comprise the at least one pathway.

21. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of determining a pathway between a source connection point and a target connection point comprising:

providing a computer system having at least one database comprising data
defining individuals as connection points;

providing a user interface configured to allow entry by the user of a list of source contacts, comprising an individual or individuals, and a list of target contacts, comprising an individual or individuals;

defining the source connection point as ~~[[a]]~~the list of source contacts, comprising an individual or individuals, entered by the user in the user interface;

defining the target connection point, ~~wherein~~ as at least one individual from the list of target contacts, comprising an individual or individuals, entered by the user in the user interface; and

defining a set of intermediate connection points as a series of intermediate contacts that collectively define the pathway from the source connection point to the target

connection point, as a function of predetermined relationships among a superset of contacts comprising the intermediate contacts.

22. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium having stored thereon instructions for determining at least one pathway between a source connection point and a target connection point, said instructions when executed by a computer causes a processor to perform operations comprising:

providing a user interface configured to allow entry by the user of a list of source contacts, comprising an individual or individuals, and a list of target contacts, comprising an individual or individuals;

defining the source connection point as [[a]]the list of source contacts, comprising an individual or individuals, entered by the user in the user interface;

defining the target connection point, ~~wherein~~ as at least one individual from the list of target contacts, comprising an individual or individuals, entered by the user in the user interface; and

defining a set of intermediate connection points as a series of intermediate contacts that collectively define the pathway from the source connection point to the target connection point, as a function of predetermined relationships among a superset of contacts comprising the intermediate contacts.